

## August Building In B'ham Drops

Building permit valuation in Birmingham for the month of August took a sharp drop from July, the year's high at \$622,970. The August building report showed 48 permits issued for a total of \$282,978.

The largest part of this figure was single family residences. Twelve new homes were listed for a total of \$188,600.

Largest commercial development was Bony Florist's new building for a valuation of \$25,000.

The report listed 26 new homes, 18 home alterations, and two building foundations.



**Says the Barrister**

You think of bankruptcy as a very unpleasant state. But you never give much thought to the fact that the right to go into bankruptcy is a constitutional guarantee.

After the revolution, when the

founders of our young country wrote the constitution, the memory of the King's harsh debtor's laws was fresh in their minds.

Under old English law a man who couldn't or wouldn't pay his bills was thrown into prison until they were paid. If he had no relatives and friends to help him, he stayed in jail and his family suffered.

Many of our first settlers came to America to escape from a debtor's prison. They chose the hard life in the colonies in preference to a pauper's existence in Europe.

HERE IN the United States, under our federal bankruptcy laws, a person who can't pay his debts because of poor business conditions, too much credit buying or unexpected loss of income may go into bankruptcy voluntarily or be forced into it at the request of his creditors.

This process is not easy. The bankrupt must place all of his property in the hands of the court except for certain exemptions for his homestead and items of personal property such as his work tools and clothing. He must swear under oath that this is all he owns.

IF PROPERTY has been given away or sold after he knew he was insolvent, to defraud creditors, the bankrupt is liable for the property back. If a debtor's statement is false he can be sent to jail for perjury.

After the court has converted all property into cash and settled all claims, the bankrupt is discharged by the courts. The creditors can no longer enforce collection.

He is not in disgrace but free to keep on working and living without fear of future action or prison.

Believe me, I intend to keep on paying my bills but it's nice to know that in America you can get another chance.

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## Peoples Column

### Fluoridation Talk Brings Rebuttal From 19 Doctors

T. Dean (Pub. Health Rep. 53:1443-1452, Aug. 19, 1938) the concentration was 2.5 ppm; according to the water engineer of Colorado Springs, Mr. J. S. Nichols, in a letter addressed to a Detroit citizen dated Aug. 7, 1936 some sources are as high as 2.8 ppm. Because this concentration is considered hazardous by the P.H.S. it is now being reduced to 1 ppm.

To the Editor:

The Physicians' Committee Studying Fluoridation, composed of members of the Michigan State Medical Society, herewith points to some of the statements made by Dr. Alfred Seyler, Pres. Detroit District Dental Society, during the past few days in the press or over the radio, with which it must take issue.

Dr. Seyler stated that:

1) Colorado Springs formerly had 20 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride in the water; that no harm has resulted from even such a high concentration. According to Dr. H.

water supplies contain 2-16 parts per million of fluoride" (Journal of Rheumatic Diseases, 14:578 Dec. 1935). Since 1 mg. in 4 glasses of water is the average daily dose considered safe by the P.H.S. twice the amount or 8 glasses at 1 ppm (2 mg.) will contain the poisonous dose of fluoride to which Dr. Hodge refers.

3) Dr. Seyler discounts the engineering difficulty involved in maintaining an even distribution of fluoride of 1 ppm at all outlets. In Morristown, N. J., one of the few cities where tests have been published on whether or not there was an even flow in all parts of the system, a range of 0.45-0.9 was detected. In Astoria, Oregon, fluoridated water taken from the tap tested at 2 ppm.

4) THE AMERICAN Dental Association has recently reported that Dr. G. L. Waldhoff's evidence against fluoridation is not scientifically valid. We have examined Dr. Waldhoff's case reports and have seen some of his most recent data. We fully concur with the Pres. of the Wayne County Medical Society who stated in a letter addressed to a physician in California dated Aug. 4, 1936:

"In reply to your letter of July 23rd, I wish to inform you that

members of our Society who have studied Dr. George L. Waldhoff's case believe that his work is careful, meticulous and thorough; that he has produced some important data which warrants earnest consideration and careful evaluation by an open mind. As with all new clinical data of this kind, confirmation will have to be made by other investigators. We understand he is continuing his studies.

"The Wayne County Medical Society, which had previously endorsed fluoridation, after hearing some of Dr. Waldhoff's evidence, decided neither to condemn nor recommend it."

FOR THE PHYSICIAN'S COMMITTEE STUDYING FLUORIDATION

L. Paul Sonda, M.D., Lyndie R. Martin, M.D., William H. Gordon, M.D., Harry E. Schmidt, M.D., Franzold Heath Lammiman, M.D., Blumenthal, M.D., A. E. Catherwood, M.D., E. H. Lauppe, M.D., F. A. Lauppe, M.D., Wadsworth Warren, M.D., Earle D. MacKenzie, M.D., Ralph H. Pino, M.D., J. Drake, M.D., Bruce Proctor, M.D., A. D. Ruedemann, M.D., Plinn F. Morse, M.D., Raymond S. Goux, M.D., Earl G. Merritt, M.D., Arthur W. Erkitz, M.D.

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